



September 2011

Teresa Veltkamp

On Friday, July 22, Indian Education in Montana lost one of its most passionate and committed advocates. Our mentor, friend, and colleague Teresa Veltkamp departed this world just one day after the birth of her son, Lucas Hiram Massman.

In grief we reflect upon all that was beautiful, extraordinary and remarkable about Teresa. However, there are no words to describe such a loss. Simply said, Teresa was a bright light – she impacted the lives of thousands of educators and students. Montana, and each of us, are better for her advocacy.

Thank you to the Montana education community; reaching across counties, reservations, and towns across the state, we are hearing and appreciating your voices come together in her honor with words of support.

Creating this newsletter – the *Indian Education for All Ledger* – was one of Teresa’s initiatives. We now implement sending it seasonally and dedicate it to her. Within this issue and those to follow, you will find informative and brief feature articles, a spotlight on resources, upcoming events and professional development opportunities.

Indian Education Staff: Lynn Hinch, Mandy Smoker Broaddus, Mike Jetty, Justine Jam, Joan Franke, and Julie Saylor

What You Did Last Summer ...

The OPI Indian Education for All Advocacy Institute was held June 24th-26th with the theme revolving around Essential Understanding 6: *History is a story most often related through the subjective experience of the teller. With the inclusion of more and varied voices, histories are being rediscovered and revised. History told from an Indian perspective frequently conflicts with the stories mainstream historians tell.*

Each day was packed with rich learning opportunities for cultural discovery, collaboration, and self-reflection. Forty participants began in Billings and traveled to activities at the Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument, the Real Bird Crow re-enactment, and Plenty Coups State

Park. Guest speakers included Denise Juneau, Reno Charette, Mike Jetty and Richard Littlebear, who delivered a poignant and personal presentation of the Northern Cheyenne at Little Big Horn. A panel consisting of Joe Anderson, Angie Collins, and Mick Fedullo addressed protocol for cross-cultural connections. Participants had read parts of *Killing Custer* in preparation for the institute that focused on the Battle of the Little Bighorn, in James Welch's words "that relatively small event in this country's war history, continues to create division among Indian people as well as tensions between Indian and whites, over a century later."

This was the third Advocacy Institute initiated by Teresa Veltkamp with the specific goal to provide a professional development opportunity tailored to deepen the expertise of educators from across Montana, native and non-native, involved in advocating for Indian Education for All.

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE DAY - Fri., Sept. 23, 2011

The fourth Friday of September was designated by the 1997 Legislature as *American Indian Heritage Day*, in recognition of Montana's constitutional commitment to preserve the cultural integrity of American Indians. The definition of a quality education in Montana includes specific language for the integration of Indian Education for All throughout the curriculum. *MCA 20-9-309*.

Activities that celebrate American Indian Heritage Day can create sustained interest in learning about the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians, setting the tone and creating connections for a year of integrating Indian Education for All.

Spark interest with these activities...

- Display information about Montana tribes – tribal specific posters, maps, and books.
- Learn the names of all Montana reservations, tribes that live on them and languages spoken there. Research how names of the tribes are spoken in their own languages.
- Explore nearby Montana Indian cultural and historical sites and community museums.
- Invite cultural resource experts from Montana's tribal nations to visit.
- Display OPI Indian Education for All curriculum materials.

Through the study of Montana Indian cultures and peoples, all students become more self-aware of their own cultures and develop a reference point to support greater understanding of others.

Explore the OPI Indian Education website for links to DVDs, websites, publications and lessons for most content areas and grade levels:

<http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/Index.html>

A Shared Endeavor

Enhancing Museum Collections with Essential Understandings: A MHS and OPI Collaboration for Montana Museums and Schools

Through this program, six museum/school partnerships received grant awards to plan, develop, and implement in-depth, sustainable learning experiences for participating Montana students. These partnerships included:

- Big Horn County Museum with Hardin High School students;
- The Old Trail Museum with Choteau students;
- The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center with Great Falls students;
- Yellowstone Gateway Museum with Livingston students;
- Glacier County Historical Museum with Cut Bank students;
- and Museum of the Beartooths with Columbus students.

The Museum-School Collaboration was highly successful, with a total number of 509 students participating in the grant projects. This program provided meaningful, in-depth learning experiences for students, teachers, and museum educators, along with substantial and sustainable educational products and templates to be used for future teaching opportunities for both the museums and schools.

A major benefit of the project was the creation of cross-cultural opportunities for students. Field trips and other interactions between reservation and off reservation schools provided opportunities for students to share and teach one another. Highlights include: The Speaker Series that the Livingston team developed for fall and winter, which provided great interaction between generations; and Choteau provided cross-cultural opportunities for the students with visits to De La Salle, Cuts Wood School and Browning High School.

Resource Spotlight

Check with your school librarian to see the jackpot of dynamic, new curriculum materials sent to schools at the end of August for the 2011-12 school year.

All Schools:

Teacher's Guide and DVD – *Montana Tribal Histories: Educators Resource Guide and Companion DVD*

Developed by Julie Cajune. Significant effort, time, and the contributions and collaboration of many have supported the completion of a uniquely valuable Indian Education for All resource incorporating information about Montana tribes into social studies and language arts instruction. Chronologically following federal policy periods through their impact on tribes, the ten-chapter Guide is designed to accompany and supplement the tribal histories that have been developed by tribes and provided to K-12 districts in the state. **Each chapter features a brief Montana Tribal History Narrative, followed by page of Content Topics and Classroom Activities and concluding with model lessons (K – 12).** The Companion DVD provides Montana tribal history timelines and primary source documents such as treaties, acts, orders, key speeches, as well as a slide show of archival photographs of Montana children in both traditional clothing and settings and Indian boarding school clothing and settings. (Also found on the OPI Indian Education

website/Curriculum

Resources page - <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/curricsearch.html>)

High School:

DVD – *Before There Were Parks: Yellowstone & Glacier Through Native Eyes.*

Narrated by N. Scott Momaday. MontanaPBS/KUSM-TV Production. 28 min. (67 min. w/features). Our oral traditions tell us Glacier and Yellowstone are significant and not because of their recent status as national parks. These are sacred places. Filmed across four seasons in both Yellowstone and Glacier, *Before There Were Parks* visits with two programs reconnecting Native children to their heritage and listens to fourteen Native leaders as they introduce the view that America's National Parks are perhaps our best connection to this land's profound indigenous past.

DVD – *Last Stand at Little Big Horn: Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse Battle Custer.*

Narrated by N. Scott Momaday. A Midnight Films production for American Experience. Produced and directed by Paul Stekler. Written by James Welch and Paul Stekler. 60 min. Using journals, oral accounts, and Indian ledger drawings as well as archival and feature films, a Native American novelist, James Welch and a white filmmaker, Paul Stekler combine talents to examine this watershed moment from two views: from that of the Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne and Crow who lived on the Great Plains for generations; and from that of white settlers who pushed west across the continent. See also [Model Teaching Unit Language Arts Secondary Level for James Welch's Killing Custer: The Battle of the Little Bighorn and the Fate of the Plains Indians](#)

DVD – *Facing the Storm: Story of the American Bison.*

Big Sky Pictures/HighPlains Films/ITVS/MontanaPBS co-production. Directed by Doug Hawes-Davis. 72 min. The film is a comprehensive documentary on the iconic American bison and its history in the American wilderness. Using archival materials and interviews with scientists, ranchers, animal rights activists and state governors, the filmmakers tell the story of the eradication of approximately 30 million buffalo from the Great Plains areas in less than 50 years.

Grades K – 5:

Book – *A Kid's Guide to Native American History*

By Yvonne Wakim Dennis and Arlene Hirschfelder. Published by Chicago Review Press, Incorporated. 2010. Features more than 50 tribally specific, hands-on activities, games, and crafts that explore the diversity of Native American cultures and teach children about the people, experiences, and events that have shaped Native American History.

Grades 3 – 6:

Teacher's Guide and DVD – *Montana Skies: Blackfeet Astronomy*

Integrates traditional Blackfeet oral star stories, told by Blackfeet elders and students, with ethno-astronomy and contemporary astronomy concepts. The DVD and Teacher's Guide provide suggested activities, lessons and resources linked to the *Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians* and Montana Content Standards in Science, Social Studies, and the Arts. (Also found on the OPI Indian Education website with Curriculum Resources - <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/curricsearch.html>)

Teacher's Guide and DVD – *Montana Skies: Crow Astronomy*

Integrates traditional Crow oral star stories, told by Crow elders and students, with ethno-astronomy and contemporary astronomy concepts. The DVD and Teacher's Guide provide suggested activities, lessons and resources linked to the *Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians* and Montana Content Standards in Science, Social Studies, and the Arts. (Also found on the OPI Indian Education website with Curriculum Resources - <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/curricsearch.html>)

Grades 6 – 8:

Book, Field Journal & DVD – *Bull Trout's Gift: A Salish Story about the Value of Reciprocity*

By the Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Illustrated by Sashay Camel. Published by the University of Nebraska Press. 2011. The three-part curriculum unit includes the book, a supplemental Field Journal – Snqeymintn (“a place to write,” in Salish), and the DVD *Explore the River*, an integrated multimedia curriculum framed by the cultural values of the Salish and Pend d'Oreille people. The unit integrates educational materials that focus not only on the Tribes' restoration and management efforts, but also on bull trout, their habitat needs, and their historic relationship to the Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreille people. Supports Montana Content Standards in Science and Language Arts.

Later in the fall, watch for ...

Two additional language arts units created by Tammy Elser for grades 5-8:

Model Teaching Unit for Larry Loyie's *As Long As the Rivers Flow*

Model Teaching Unit for Louise Erdrich's *The Birchbark House*

Upcoming Events & Professional Development

Consider participating in the OPI Indian Education For All Model Lesson Pilot Project

For the past six years, the Indian Education Division has been engaged in the development of curriculum materials to support Indian Education for All. For 2011-2012 we will provide an opportunity for teachers to use the resources that have been developed to structure their own professional development around that effort. **The pilot program will allow teachers to choose a model lesson to teach, collaborate with a colleague to arrange for classroom observation, and provide feedback on the lesson/unit.** Awards will be paid directly to the teacher and observer for preparation time and time for providing feedback to OPI. The pilot will be funded at various levels, ranging from \$90-\$700, depending on the amount of preparation time, length of the unit and time for feedback.

Questions? Contact Mike Jetty – 444-0720, mjetty@mt.gov

Please see the OPI Indian Education website for application form and further details.
<http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/Index.html>

Visit us in Missoula at the 2011 MEA-MFT Educators Conference! October 20-21.

As always, we will have many materials to give away and would enjoy visiting with you. Watch our Hot Topics page for a listing of the Indian Education for All sessions.

<http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/Index.html>

Columbus Day, October 10, 2011

Who discovered who(m) in 1492? Are you looking for new ideas for teaching about Columbus that are more inclusive of American Indian perspectives? [Rethinking Columbus](#) is full of information and resources for teaching about the complex issues surrounding the historical, and mythical, figure.

Visit these links for OPI elementary and middle school model lesson plans that take a more accurate and inclusive look at Columbus.

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/IndianEd/Resources/columbusdayrevisited.pdf>

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/IndianEd/Resources/CriticalThinking.pdf>

A GREAT WAY TO GET STARTED

Tribes of Montana and How They Got Their Names with interactive DVD

Looking for a quick, interactive learning activity now that you are all settled in for the new school year? This lesson is a perfect place to begin IEFA instruction. Learn names of tribes/location of reservations, misnomers and nicknames of their tribal names and sign language for each tribe's names. Historical film clips, photos, paintings and interviews with contemporary tribal educators and elders bring this easy lesson to light, supporting IEFA and Social Studies content standards. Find maps, The Name Game, and Names Tribes Use for Themselves in the lesson Appendix. Suggested for fourth grade and easily differentiated for other grades, these materials have been sent by OPI to your school library.

Which tribe's name depicts 'timber people' and what is the correct sign language for this name?

If you do not wish to receive the IEFA Ledger in your email, please click on "Unsubscribe" below. You may view the IEFA Ledger on the OPI website -

<http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/Index.html>

About Us

The Indian Education office supports the efforts of local education agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, postsecondary institutions, and other entities to meet the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indians. The Indian Education office also works to assure that Article X, section 1(2) and MCA 20-1-501 are met by educational agencies so ALL Montanans leave the education system with an understanding of the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians.

For newsletter information contact:

Julia M Saylor
Curriculum Coordinator, Indian Education For All
Office of Public Instruction
jsaylor@mt.gov
(406) 444-0754 or 1-888-231-0754 (in-state)